

196 and 213 are predicted to form such a spacer region. Accordingly, a soluble form of RANK that terminates with an amino acid in this region is expected to retain the ability to bind a ligand for RANK in a specific manner. Preferred C-terminal amino acids for soluble RANK peptides are selected from the group consisting of amino acids 213 and 196 of SEQ ID NO:2, although other amino acids in the spacer region may be utilized as a C-terminus. In muRANK, the amino acids between 197 and 214 are predicted to form such a spacer region. Accordingly, a soluble form of RANK that terminates with an amino acid in this region is expected to retain the ability to bind a ligand for RANK in a specific manner. Preferred C-terminal amino acids for soluble RANK peptides are selected from the group consisting of amino acids 214, and 197 of SEQ ID NO:5, although other amino acids in the spacer region may be utilized as a C-terminus. - -

At page 4, line 28, please delete [NO:6] and substitute therefor - - NO:5 - -

At page 7, between lines 5 and 6, please insert the following paragraph:

- - Soluble forms of RANK and other RANK antagonists such as antagonistic monoclonal antibodies can be administered for the purpose of inhibiting RANK-induced induction of NF- $\kappa$ B activity. NF- $\kappa$ B is a transcription factor that is utilized extensively by cells of the immune system, and plays a role in the inflammatory response. Thus, inhibitors of RANK signalling will be useful in treating conditions in which signalling through RANK has given rise to negative consequences, for example, toxic or septic shock, or graft-versus-host reactions. They may also be useful in interfering with the role of NF- $\kappa$ B in cellular transformation. Tumor cells are more responsive to radiation when their NF- $\kappa$ B is blocked; thus, soluble RANK (or other antagonists of RANK signalling) will be useful as an adjunct therapy for disease characterized by neoplastic cells that express RANK. - -

In the claims:

1. A method of [regulating] inhibiting osteoclast [activity] generation, the method comprising [causing] administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutic composition comprising a recombinant soluble RANK [to bind RANKL] polypeptide.

In Claim 2(a), line 3, please delete [62] and substitute therefor - - 2 - -